

WITH THE FARMERS

By Prof. W. F. MASSEY

Thursday, November 20, 1913.

Cleves in South-west Virginia.

"What do you think of growing celery in this mountain section? There is a great demand for it here, and the people prefer the greenish ar-

ound. I have some very rich land along a branch and can easily irrigate it. I notice that one

gardener made an effort to grow it

and had some very nice on the market.

The others say that while he might

have succeeded, it was not

so again. They say the

climate does not suit it and that it

will not grow much.

I really think

one of them has made a real effort.

They told me I could not grow onions from seed, but I am doing it all

right. We have got to raise something

besides the general farm crops

and the vegetables are fine

grown in the mountains of

Western North Carolina as is grown

anywhere. A man there wrote to me

that he had extra firewood, and that

the Asheville market preferred the big

and showy stuff from Kalamazoo,

and he wanted to make a market else-

where. I gave him address to a local

grocer, and soon the man's entire

crop was better than any I ever

saw come from Kalamazoo, not in size,

but in crisp,atty quality. Your creek

bottom will make delicious celery.

I noticed that the gardens at Cleves

land, O., plant their celery in rows

about twenty inches or less apart, and

then all the space between the rows

is filled with manure, which mulches

over it all. They use the Skinner

overhead irrigation, but on a bottom

where you can turn a stream that will

be excellent.

Then in the fall they place boards on

edge on each side of the rows to blanch

it, and I know that on their clay soil

they grow far better celery than on the

black swamp soil at Kalamazoo.

One fall recently in western Kalamazoo

the new crop of onions, particularly

around the town, turned six inches

tall, for 10 cents, and I concluded that

that was about what the growers there

get, and that the rest of what we have

to pay here is railroad charges.

The way to avoid cost is to get seed free

from H., if it is carried by the seed,

and with a good magnifying glass you

can see little black dots on infected

seed. Get French seed only. You can

grow the self-blanching sorts in the fall

and green varieties for winter

storage, but care to say in regard

to this crop in the proper season for

starting the plants.

Curing Sweet Potatoes.

"I have a large lot of sweet potatoes

in a cooled house, with cement floor,

Please tell me what temperature to

keep this room, and how long to cure

them. I have a large coal stove for

the purpose. I suppose the room has

windows or some means for ventilation.

It is necessary that the moisture

should be removed during the process.

The temperature should be 80 degrees,

with open ventilation, for a week or

until there is no sweat on the potatoes.

The curing will be more

easily done if the potatoes are in crates

and not in bulk, and you do not tell

me how they were stored, and it is im-

portant that the curing should start at

once after they are in. I have referred

to this matter several times, and if you

will read these columns you will

know what I have advised. After

drying off from the sweat at tempera-

ture not higher than 80 degrees lower

will keep them all right. Too high

a temperature will starve them to

smutting and too low a temperature

will chill and destroy them.

Keeping Weevils Out of Peas.

I have more weevils now than how to

destroy weevils in peas that are kept

out some one asks for the remedy. I

hope all interested will cut off the

peas in a box or jar where there is no

live stock, and a box that can be cov-

ered tight. Then set some dried sun-

shades that generally comes in pent

A pint is enough for 100 bushels.

Pour the liquid in a can and set it on

the peas and close tight. The

chemical evaporates very rapidly, and

the fumes, being heavier than air, will

sink through the mass and kill all living

insects in it. It may be necessary to

repeat it, if new ones hatch out.

Put the stuff away from any fire,

for the fumes will explode, even from

a corner, and they are not wholesome

to breathe. This will answer two

queries in this mail, and I hope that

all will read and preserve it for refer-

ence to country farm papers. I

have given the method fifty times or

more.

Winter Cabbage Plants.

"WITH the Copenhagen market cab-

bage plants winter well as the

Watson's fit on longer or shorter

turnrows, you mention?" The

Copenhagen cabbage hasn't been long

enough in this country to fully test

its character, but I have found that it

is more apt, or at least in the one

season I have grown them they seemed

to become apt to run to seed in spring

than the Watson's. This will

not overwinter as well as the

Watson's, but it will stand

well, and will grow well in

the short winter.

Short Courses in Agriculture.

"Richmond City will you please

tell me where there is a short course

in agricultural college. I would like

to know where such a one is located and

the cost thereof?" Most of the state

colleges now offer a short winter

course. You can get full information

by addressing the president of the

Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacks-

burg, Va.; the president of the North

Carolina State, West Raleigh, N. C.;

the Maryland Agricultural College, Park,

Md.; or offering a two

year course in faith and trade

growing, beginning January 25, entirely

on credit.

Vegetable Fruit Growers.

The American Phytological Society

meets in Washington November 17-22

and will richly pay any Virginia

fruit-grower to attend the meetings.

The great show of what is called

"Maryland Welsh" takes place in

the great armory of the Fifth Regiment,

on December 18-22. There will

be a wonderful display of fruits, veg-

etables and flowers, and I am one of

the judges in this exhibition. I will

be very glad to meet any of the

readers of these columns.

Sowing Rice in Corn.

Cumberland County "Will winter

succeed if sown in corn at last

working about July 1 and covered

with cultivators? I want winter graz-

ing and something to grow under in

the spring. This is on river land cul-

tivated in corn every year." The

She Made A Wise Choice

A girl who was given a small Bank Bill on graduation to spend as she wished, immediately selected a MUSIC CABINET and showed it as one of her most prized and useful gifts. The average girl or woman, if given her choice, is quite as apt to choose something of use and permanent value in the furnishing of her room, as an article of dress, which is worn out or thrown out because of style at the end of the season. Surely there is wisdom in such a choice, for permanency is a characteristic of value that should never be overlooked in the selection of presents.

A random stroll through this store will suggest gifts of real value at very reasonable prices.

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